

year's crop from under the soil to the top of the soil, where it decomposes and releases carbon into the atmosphere.

Improved forestry practices are another example of effective and scientifically-proven methods to help reduce carbon emissions. These practices must be a central component of any clean energy legislation. It is estimated that forests store up to 80 percent of above-ground carbon and nearly 70 percent of the carbon stored in the soil. Reducing deforestation, restoring forests, and better land management can all help reduce atmospheric carbon levels, not just in our country but around the world.

This bill also creates incentives to develop new technologies for reducing other greenhouse gas emissions. For example, methane is more than 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide and can be produced from landfills, coal mines, farms, natural gas systems and oil pipelines.

Equipment that can reduce or eliminate methane emissions can have a drastic impact on our environment. We can even use technologies that not only capture the methane but use it to generate cleaner electricity. That equipment can be designed and built right here in America, building on our innovative and manufacturing expertise to create good-paying jobs.

Not only will an offsets program help store carbon, it will also result in cleaner water, more wildlife habitat, and reduced costs for business and agriculture. That is why this legislation has the broad support of organizations and leaders in agriculture, forestry, conservation, utilities and manufacturing, including National Milk Producers Federation; National Farmers Union; National Corn Growers Association; National Cattlemen's Beef Association; American Farmland Trust; National Alfalfa & Forage Association; Dow Chemical Company; Duke Energy; American Electric Power; PG&E Corporation; Dominion; John Deere; Business Council for Sustainable Development; Coalition for Emission Reduction Projects; Generators for Clean Air; National Association of Forest Owners; American Forest Foundation; Binational Softwood Lumber Council; Conservation Forestry; First Environment, Inc.; Forest Guild; Hardwood Federation; Lyme Timber Company; Maine Forest Service; National Alliance of Forest Owners; National Association of State Foresters; National Association of University Forest Resource Programs; National Hardwood Lumber Association; Society of American Foresters; Weyerhaeuser; The Nature Conservancy; Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and Trust for Public Land.

The legislation I introduced yesterday creates partnerships between our agricultural and manufacturing industries, protecting jobs and revitalizing our economy. It is estimated that strong agriculture and forestry offsets

could be worth up to \$24 billion annually to our economy. If the right clean energy policies are put in place, we have the opportunity to make this work for manufacturing and agriculture and create jobs.

Manufacturing in America created the middle class and is the backbone of our economy. We cannot have an economy if we aren't making things in this country—so any energy bill we pass must protect our industries, protect jobs, and protect our American middle class.

By creating partnerships between manufacturers and agriculture, we can link up the people who "bring home the bacon" with the people who actually make the bacon.

By allowing our manufacturing industries to offset their carbon emissions with savings made by sustainable agriculture and forestry practices, we can create a real win-win situation for America's economy.

In my home State of Michigan, we know how to make things and grow things. We know that to reach the clean energy future, we must link our manufacturing expertise with our agricultural expertise. Supported by some of the finest research universities in the world, we are already making key investments in clean energy technology that will reinvigorate our economy, create jobs, and protect our environment for the next generation.

That is what this bill is all about. We still have a long way to go in creating a clean energy bill that makes sense for our manufacturing and agricultural industries. But this bill is an important step toward reaching a balanced approach to energy legislation that respects our environment while also respecting the men and women who build things and grow things in this country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND JOHN (JACK) SHARP

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding community leader, the Reverend John (Jack) Sharp of Baltimore, MD. Reverend Sharp served as pastor of the Govans Presbyterian Church for 27 years. He has distinguished himself by reaching far beyond his parish to the entire Baltimore community as a visionary and activist determined to move people and social programs from inaction to accomplishment.

Reverend Sharp's mission had always been to aid the poor and the most vulnerable citizens. His boldness of purpose and tenacity, coupled with a winning and commanding personality, enabled him to unite diverse people to work for a common good. Few community activists can match his accomplishments. During his career, he encouraged neighborhoods to accept and embrace housing for the mentally ill and the homeless. In 1991, he founded

the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, GEDCO, and he has become one of Baltimore's most dynamic and expansive nonprofit developers of senior housing and supportive services for those with special needs.

GEDCO projects and facilities are numerous, providing housing and services for the mentally ill and the homeless—including men and women with HIV/AIDS—a large community pantry, financial assistance, and job development and mentoring. Jack Sharp is most proud of the development of his grand vision, Stadium Place, a state-of-the-art senior residential campus on the grounds of the old Memorial Stadium. The campus is home to four independent living buildings for retirees, an intergenerational and interfaith community "Y" and playground, and shovel-ready plans for an innovative Green House long-term care residential facility.

Reverend Sharp accomplished all of this while serving as a pastor; president of the Board of Community Housing Associates of the Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc.; president of the Glen Meadows Retirement community; and treasurer of the Baltimore Interfaith Hospitality Network. In 2008, he was honored with the Governor's Leadership in Aging Award and the National Football League—Ravens—Community Quarterback Award for Community Service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and applauding Jack Sharp for all that he has accomplished to improve the lives of citizens in Baltimore. He made their challenges his challenge and he has made Baltimore City a better place in which to live.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3639. An act to amend the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 to establish an earlier effective date for various consumer protections, and for other purposes.

At 2:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3548) to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3548. An act to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.